

# **Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Together, we move forward.

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) together with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Committee (DHHAC), community programs, state agencies, consumer groups and professional organizations provides essential services to our deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened and deaf-blind consumers to enhance independence and self-advocacy.

Annual meetings are held with DHHAC members to discuss issues impacting the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) consumers who are deaf or hard of hearing. We work closely with statewide DOR district management, Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf (RCD), Community Resources Specialists, and other service providers to assure that necessary resources available in the community are provided to DOR consumers. DHHS assures that all programs and agencies providing services to DOR consumers are properly certified and accessible. DHHS staff conduct evaluations of bilingual proficiency in American Sign Language for departmental and other state agency personnel.

## **FACTS**

- A videophone pilot project for Rehabilitation Counselors was conducted to provide independent communication.
- Interpreting accommodations were provided through our office for the Governor's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Medal of Valor Ceremony.
- SB 105 mandated annual statewide training be conducted for the continuing education of RCDs.
- As of June 30, 2008, 1,957 individuals applied for services. RCDs developed 1,497 Individual Plans for Employment with consumers resulting in a 56.2% success rate of employment outcomes.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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